

134:25  
MS

# THE BAPTIST Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

BRUNSON  
#0000 2910 62428  
005 01M  
SOUTHERN BAPT HISTORICAL SOC 5960 P1  
901 COMMERCE ST STE 401  
NASHVILLE TN 37203-3620  
JUN 30 2010

SINCE 1877  
JUNE 24, 2010  
VOL. 134  
No. 25

MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

No Baptist Record  
next week

Due to postal regulations that limit the Baptist Record to 50 issues per year, the newspaper will not publish on July 1. All news items for publication in the next available issue, July 8, must be received in the newspaper's offices by July 1. For more information, call (601) 292-3375 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 375. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

## Southern Baptists gather in Orlando

ORLANDO, FL (BP and local reports) — After months of debate, Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) messengers meeting on June 15-16 in Orlando easily adopted an amended version of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report and also elected a new president, Bryant Wright, pastor of Johnson Ferry Church in Marietta, Ga.

It was the first time Southern Baptists had gathered in Orlando since 2000, the same year they debated and passed another significant document, the 2000 Baptist Faith & Message.

The 23-member GCR Task Force, formed during the 2009 annual meeting in Louisville, Ky., by then-SBC President Johnny Hunt, released a preliminary report in February and a lengthy final report in May. Discussion on the report in newspapers, Internet blogs, and social media led to the largest messenger total at an annual meeting — just over 11,000 — since 2006. In other top annual meeting news:

- messengers passed a resolution calling divorce a "scandal that has become all too commonplace in our own churches," and an oil spill resolution asserting that "our God-given dominion over the creation is not unlimited, as though we were gods and not creatures."

- the convention voted in its first presidential runoff since 1982.

- the Executive Committee elected Frank Page as its next president, replacing Mississippi native Morris Chapman, who is retiring.

The GCR report dominated messengers' attention. It had seven components, none of which drew more floor discussion during the Tuesday afternoon session than the third component's call for a new category, Great Commission Giving, that would encompass not only Cooperative Program giving but also designated giving to all SBC causes.

Critics argued the new category would de-emphasize CP giving, and when mes-



IN SESSION — More than 11,000 messengers from Southern Baptist churches across the nation and the world attended the 153rd annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention on June 15-16 in Orlando. Messengers approved the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force report and elected a Georgia pastor as the new SBC president. (BP photo)

senger John Waters offered an amendment striking the new category from the report, a vote via a show of ballots appeared too close to call. Rather than putting the amendment to a ballot vote that possibly would push discussion of the report into the evening, task force members offered two compromise amendments that strengthened the report's CP language. Both were amendments to Component No. 3 and both passed overwhelmingly.

The first amendment said Southern Baptists "continue to honor and affirm the Cooperative Program as the most effective means of mobilizing our churches and extending our outreach." The second amendment — which was written during a discussion on stage between task force members and Waters — said Southern Baptists affirm "that designated giving to special causes is to be given as a supplement to the Cooperative Program and not as a substitute for Cooperative Program giving."

Waters, pastor of First Church in Statesboro, Ga., spoke from the podium and said the compromise amendment was offered by him and task force members "in the spirit of unity and togetherness" so as "to find some common ground on which we can stand for the sake of" the Great Commission.

After the final amendment passed, the report itself passed via a show of ballots by an estimated three-to-one margin.

Following the vote, task force chairman Ronnie Floyd, pastor of First Church in Springdale, Ar., recalled the statement issued by northern and southern Baptists after the 1845 founding of the Southern Baptist Convention. He told messengers: "Following the pattern of our leaders of old, we also would say to the watching world that the differences between those

who support the Great Commission Resurgence report and recommendations and those who do not should not be exaggerated. We are still brothers and sisters in Christ. We differ on no article of faith.

"We are guided by our shared commitment to the Gospel itself and to the articles of faith identified in the Baptist Faith and Message 2000," he added. "The Southern Baptist Convention is a convention of churches that is committed to a missional vision of presenting the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in the world and to make disciples of all the nations. We are a Great Commission people."

Task force members said the amendments strengthened the report.

"The bottom line is that in an inelegant way we have a superior recommendation," task force member R. Albert Mohler Jr., president of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky., and one of the chief authors of the task force report, said of the amendment process. "I think it's, in one sense, Southern Baptists at their very best — sometimes a bit clumsy but determined to get to the same place together, and I appreciated the spirit of the messengers."

Said Floyd: "We just thank all of Southern Baptists for believing in the Great Commission, and now we move forward."

### Presidential election

Wright was elected in a runoff for SBC president, winning 55% to 44% for Ted Traylor, pastor of Olive Church in Pensacola, Fla. Speaking to reporters shortly after he was elected, Wright emphasized his church's spotlight on missions and said he would like to see more churches and pastors take mission trips.

Continued on page two



CONVENTION SERMON — Mac Brunson, pastor of First Church in Jacksonville, Fla., delivered the 2010 convention message during the morning session on June 16 of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention in Orlando, Fla. (BP photo)



# Pastors urged to 'accomplish great things'

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Churches and pastors must rally around the cry for God and not themselves to accomplish great things across the country and around the world, speakers said during the 2010 Southern Baptist Convention Pastors' Conference on June 13-14 in Orlando.

Under the conference banner of Greater Things, speakers during the Sunday evening and Monday morning sessions challenged pastors to honestly evaluate themselves, their churches and the denomination with humility and repentance.

## Leaving a legacy

"If we as Southern Baptists don't know where we are, then we sure don't know where we're going," said David Uth, pastor of First Church in Orlando, during the conference's opening session. Knowing where we're going is crucial in leaving the next generation "a convention that is committed to the Great Commission," Uth added.

Using the Apostle Paul's farewell to the Ephesians in Acts 20:19, Uth said humility, brokenness, and suffering are the ingredients required in leaving a legacy.

"One of the things that breaks my heart is when I hear a church talking about their ministries and all they've done," Uth said. "Let me tell you something, if you've done anything worthwhile, you didn't do it. Your Father granted it from heaven. Give Him the glory. God gives grace to the humble."

In addition to recognizing that God is the source of great accomplishments in churches, Uth exhorted pastors to be broken for and weep over those who do not know Christ, as well as prove themselves faithful amid trials.

## Portrait of a dying church

Preaching from Revelation 3:1-6, Steve Gaines, pastor of the Memphis-area Bellevue Church in Cordova, Tenn., presented a Portrait of a Dying Church.

Churches are not excited about their ministry like they once were and members "dabble instead of do," Gaines observed. It is time for churches and the Southern Baptist Convention to wake up, Gaines said. "There are still people who need to hear the Gospel."

Gaines mentioned that while he supports the proposals of the Great Commission Resurgence Task Force, what is really needed is "a red-hot, Holy Ghost revival from God."

## Faith that endures

Ravi Zacharias, known for his work in comparative religions, cults, and philosophy, brought a message from Genesis using examples from the life of Joseph to encourage pastors to be men of all seasons.

The India-born scholar mixed personal anecdotes and humor as he urged attendees to avoid temptation, endure through difficult times, refrain from abusing

the power of their position, and display a testimony of character.

"If you violate God's law, you will end up in disillusionment, disfigurement, and destruction because the seduction of the lie is that it distorts reality while it is disfiguring the soul," Zacharias said. "What is the grounding of your belief in your resistance to temptation? Is it the fear of other things, or is it because of the deep conviction that you know only in serving God is your ultimate fulfillment as you're one of His in thought, in word, and in deed."

## Little bit of heaven

Like a team of referees in a football game, the church of Jesus Christ on earth is not here to take sides between earthly teams but to represent the interests of heaven, Tony Evans, pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas, reminded pastors in the closing message June 13.

Noting that "the church of Jesus Christ is supposed to be a little bit of heaven, a long way from home" in the same way an American embassy represents the United States abroad, Evans said the church's influence has been nullified because it has misunderstood its calling.

Citing Matthew 16, where Jesus told Peter that he would build His church on Peter's confession that Jesus was the Christ, Evans said the best exegesis of the text connotes a collection of stones "hewn together." In the same way, the church must be hewn together around "a common cause, a common impact."

## Perspective change

Speakers Monday morning charged pastors with keeping their focus on Christ and the Gospel as they humbly serve their congregations. In the opening session, David Landrith challenged pastors not to "lose sight of greater things."

Landrith, senior pastor of Long Hollow Church in Hendersonville, Tenn., noted it is easy to lose sight of greater things when one's perspective is not where it needs to be.

Basing his message on Psalm 73, Landrith noted the psalmist was going through a difficult time in his life because he had an earthly perspective. When the psalmist went "into the sanctuary," he gained a heavenly perspective. God did not change the psalmist's situation; the psalmist's perspective changed, Landrith said.

## No small churches

Ken Whitten, pastor of Idlewild Church in Tampa, Fla., cited 2 Samuel 7, in pointing out that people err in judging a man or ministry by "using the wrong measuring stick." Questions about the number baptized, the amount given to the Cooperative Program, church attendance, and staff size invites comparison and then covetousness and criticism, he said.

"Leadership is not just what is done with the hands, but also



**PASTORS' CONFERENCE** — Tony Evans, senior pastor of Oak Cliff Bible Fellowship in Dallas and president of the Urban Alternative, speaks during the Pastors' Conference June 13 prior to the June 15-16 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in Orlando. (BP photo)

what is done with the heart," he said, citing 2 Samuel 7:4. "God is the only master I know who pays as much for the ambitions of your heart as the achievements of your hands. God keeps the books and the hours."

## Word's weapons

Matt Chandler, lead pastor of The Village Church in Highland Village, Texas, centered his message on the Gospel as presented in 1 Corinthians 15. Noting that many churches are "primarily evangelism-oriented and not depth-oriented," Chandler said the Gospel affects not only one's justification but sanctification as well.

Many churches and Christians have fallen into "moralistic deism," which at its basic level points to behaviors that must be performed and/or avoided in order to receive the love of Christ, rather than to the atoning work of Christ on the cross, Chandler said.

Using D.A. Carson's concept of "grace-driven effort," Chandler explained there are two weapons found in God's Word that grace provides: the blood of Christ, specifically described in Ephesians 2:13, and the promise of the New Covenant, found in Hebrews 9:13.

## Maintaining joy

C.J. Mahaney, former pastor of Covenant Life Church in Gaithersburg, Md., cautioned pastors about losing the wonder and joy of pastoral ministry. Pointing to 1 Peter 5, Mahaney, who now leads Sovereign Grace Ministries, cited the Apostle Peter's exhortation to early church elders to serve one's church willingly, rather than "under compulsion."

"The weekly repetitive activity can wear down the once-willing preacher," Mahaney said. He listed factors like minimal response to sermon after sermon, the lack of discernible difference in people's lives, hospital visits, and funerals and friends who burn out and leave the ministry.

To maintain the joy, pastors "should purpose to please God in private" and "purpose to build a culture of joy in their church." As the Scripture points to an "unfailing crown of glory," pastors should live their lives in anticipation of their reward in heaven.

"What a day that will be!" exclaimed Mahaney, who is not Southern Baptist.

During the Sunday evening and Monday morning sessions, Pastors' Conference attendees also heard a brief challenges from SBC President Johnny Hunt.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

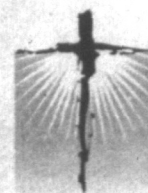
Woman's Missionary Union turns a new page in its long history June 11 by installing Wanda S. Lee of Georgia as its seventh executive director during the opening session of the 112th WMU annual meeting in Orlando.

### 20 years ago

The annual Southern Baptist Convention meeting in New Orleans attracts 38,478 messengers, the third largest in history. Mississippi native Morris Chapman, pastor of first church, Wichita Falls, Texas, is elected president.

### 30 years ago

Mississippi supplies 38 of the student summer missionaries who have recently gone to mission stations. This is the largest group ever used by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS

## THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

PUBLISHED SINCE 1877

JUNE 24, 2010

VOL. 134

No. 25



YOU CAN RESPOND  
RIGHT NOW!

Simply share the following prayer with God in your own words:

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. (I have sinned.)
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. (I repent.)
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. (I believe in Jesus.)
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. (I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)

"But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name." (John 1:12)

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

## EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.  
wperkins@mbcb.org

## ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Tony Martin  
tmartin@mbcb.org

## LAYOUT/DESIGN

Benjamin Ivey  
bivey@mbcb.org

## ADVERTISING

Emily Jones  
ejones@mbcb.org

## CIRCULATION MANAGER

Brenda Quattlebaum  
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

## EDITOR EMERITUS

Don McGregor

## Baptist Record Advisory Committee:

Archie Herrin, Columbia  
Chris Webb, Jackson  
Sharon Neff, Cleveland  
John Price, Charleston  
Dwayne Parker, Flora  
Paul Sims, Pontotoc

## Postmaster:

Send changes of address to: The  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Send news, communication, and  
address changes to: The Editor,  
BAPTIST RECORD, P.O. Box 530,  
Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Tel: (601) 968-3800

Fax: (601) 292-3330

E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

## VOLUME 134 • NUMBER 25

(ISSN-0005-5778)

Published weekly except weeks of July 4  
and Christmas by the Mississippi Baptist  
Convention Board, 515 Mississippi Street,  
Jackson, MS 39201. Subscription \$10.35 per  
year payable in advance. Economy plans  
available for cooperating Mississippi churches.  
Periodicals postage paid at Jackson, MS.  
Member, Association of State Baptist Papers.  
Deadlines: News items — one calendar  
week prior to requested publication date.  
Advertising — two calendar weeks prior to  
requested publication date. All submissions  
are subject to editing.

"The pastor needs to experience what it's like to be out there in another culture, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ," Wright said.

Wright supported the task force's report. "The task force leadership has led the convention in taking a very courageous step, but it is really just a beginning," Wright said. "If we're going to be radically serious about reaching this world for Christ, we as individuals and we as churches are going to have to really be prayerfully committed to fulfilling what God has called us to do with the Great Commission."

Wright also talked about how he and his church, frustrated with the amount of Cooperative Program dollars that remain in the United States, lowered their CP giving in order to raise contributions to the International Mission Board.

"We would very much prefer that all those funds go straight through CP," Wright said, "but there needs to be a radical re-prioritization of that money."

Asked about a column he wrote urging state conventions to retain only 25% to 30% of undesignated CP gifts from churches, Wright said, "I'd love to see states move in that direction, knowing it will be a long, long process." Even a goal of splitting receipts 50/50 between state and SBC causes would allow funding for many more missionaries, he said.

Wright said state convention leaders "can be the real heroes in carrying out the Great Commission" since they control budgets and decide how much goes out of state for distribution to Southern Baptist causes.

## Resolutions

The divorce resolution, which passed with what appeared to be a unanimous vote, says the "acceleration in rates of divorce in Southern Baptist churches has not come through a shift in theological conviction about scriptural teaching on divorce but rather through cultural accommodation."

The resolution urges churches to "to proclaim the Word of God

on the permanence of marriage" and for "Southern Baptists in troubled or faltering marriages to seek godly assistance and, where possible, reconciliation." It further calls on churches "to proclaim God's mercy and grace to all people — including those who have been divorced without biblical grounds."

Resolutions Committee Chairman Russell Moore, a Biloxi native and dean of the school of theology and senior vice president for academic administration at Southern Seminary, said it was the convention's first resolution since 1904 directly to address divorce.

The resolution on the Gulf oil spill, which passed nearly unanimously, calls on Southern Baptists to help those in the region who are hurting and to pray for an end to the tragedy. It also acknowledges that "this tragedy should remind us to testify to the love of God in His creation and to the hope through the blood of Christ, of a fully restored creation in which the reign of God is seen 'on earth as it is in heaven' (Matthew 6:10)."

Messengers also passed resolutions:

- calling for reaffirmation of the centrality of the Gospel of Jesus.
- supporting family worship.
- opposing the proposed Employment Non-Discrimination Act and the overturning of the military's Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

## Page chosen

Frank Page, vice president of evangelization for the North American Mission Board, was elected the next Executive Committee (EC) president during a closed executive session of the EC meeting June 14, the day prior to the annual meeting.

He said he hopes to be a unifying voice in the convention. "There's great division amongst the brethren and to pull us together is going to be a God-ordained task that I shall deal with as best I can," he said. "One of my goals is to be a unifier. We've got to,



**CHAPLAINS MEET** — Maj. Gen. Douglas L. Carver, U.S. Army chief of chaplains, addressed the North American Mission Board chaplains luncheon on June 14 in Orlando, Fl. Carver is the first Southern Baptist chaplain promoted to the chief of chaplains office in more than 50 years. The chaplains met in conjunction with the 2010 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo)



**DECADES OF SERVICE** — Roy Fish (right), distinguished professor of evangelism at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, is congratulated by Ron Herrod, outgoing president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists (COSBE), upon Fish's induction into the COSBE Hall of Faith on June 12 in Orlando, Fl. Fish has served at the seminary for 41 years. Legendary revivalist Mordecai Ham, who died in 1961, was also inducted into the Hall of Faith. COSBE met in conjunction with the 2010 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention. (BP photo)

based on John 17:21. It is imperative for our evangelistic efforts that we be unified."

## In other matters:

- More than 1,500 people accepted Christ during the pre-convention Crossover evangelism emphasis, which had 1,900-plus volunteers.

International Mission Board President Jerry Rankin delivered his final report to messengers, applauding Southern Baptists for giving nearly \$149 million to the Lottie Moon Christmas offering but saying it still was not enough to send all the Southern Baptists waiting for missionary appointment.

"What will we sacrifice?" he asked. "What will we be willing to change in order for the missionaries that God is calling from our churches to go and touch the lost nations and peoples who are dying without Christ? I pray that that question will be implanted in our minds and stir our conscience with conviction."

Richard Harris, interim president of the North American Mission Board, told messengers that three out of every four people in North America have no personal relationship with Christ. Yet Harris recounted several reasons for optimism, including a church in Painter, Al., that saw its Easter attendance double by using the God's Plan for Sharing (GPS) evangelism strategy.

Harris also said that 85,000 Haitians have accepted Christ since the earthquake. "I have never been more excited than this day to move forward to penetrate lostness in North America, and the North American Mission Board is going to help you do it," he said.

- Executive Committee

President Morris H. Chapman, a native of Kosciusko and graduate of Mississippi college in Clinton, delivered his final report to messengers. "As you may know, I do differ with the last five recommendations that shall be recommended by the Great Commission Task Force," Chapman said minutes prior to debate on the report.

"My heart is heavy because these recommendations do not challenge us spiritually and shall never bring us to our knees, much less take us to the ends of the earth. We can accomplish all of these recommendations without the power of God and the moving of God's Holy Spirit."

A resurgence, Chapman said, "must be ignited by the Holy Spirit of God and stoked by faithful people in the pulpits and pews of this land."

Messengers elected Tennessee evangelist Ron Herrod as first vice president and Eric Moffett, pastor of First Church in Sparkman, Ar., as second vice president. Earlier in the convention, Moffett's church received the Executive Committee's M.E. Dodd Award for its commitment to the Cooperative Program. Over the past 30 years the 100-member church has given an average of 32% to CP.

By acclamation, messengers elected John Yeats, director of communications for the Louisiana Baptist Convention, as SBC recording secretary, and Jim Wells, director of missions for the Tri-County Association in Nixa, Mo., as registration secretary.

Messengers also elected David Platt, pastor of the Church at Brook Hills in Birmingham, Ala., to preach the convention sermon at the 2011 annual meeting in Phoenix.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



4. Hebron Church, Smithdale



5. First Church Glendale, Hattiesburg



6. Pleasant Hill Church, Carthage



7. Hollandale Church, Hollandale



8. Roundaway Church, Doddsville

1. **Valley Park Church, Valley Park:** July 19-24; 6:30 nightly; Kindergarten-sixth grade.
2. **Calvary Church, Columbia:** June 27-July 1; 5:30-8:30 nightly. Theme will be Bug Safari.
3. **Holcomb Church, Holcomb:** June 28-July 2. 6-8 nightly.
4. **Children of Hebron Church, Smithdale,** attended BOOT (Biblical Outlook and Outreach Training) Camp during Vacation Bible School, to prepare to be members of the Lord's Army. The children also raised over \$400 to help Yazoo City tornado relief through the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.
5. **First Church Glendale, Hattiesburg,** held Vacation Bible School on June 6-11. Theme was Saddle Ridge Ranch. Average attendance was 106. Pictured are participants.
6. **Pleasant Hill Church, Carthage,** recently conducted Saddle Ridge Ranch Vacation Bible School. Pictured are participants.
7. **Hollandale Church, Hollandale,** recently conducted Vacation Bible School with the theme, High Seas Adventure. Pictured are participants.
8. **Roundaway Church, Doddsville,** held their second Vacation Bible School in 23 years during the week of June 6. Enrollment was 96, with average attendance on 80. Nine decisions to accept Christ were recorded. Gina Staggs, director. Bob Hill, pastor.



## REVIVALS

1. **Valley Park Church, Valley Park:** Revival, June 27-30; Sun. 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Mike Alexander, speaker; Ronnie Purser, pastor.
2. **Sauls Valley Church, Monticello:** Revival, July 11-14; Sun., Sunday School 10 a.m., Morning Worship 11 a.m., followed by lunch; short service, 1 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Darryl Daniels, speaker; Rob Schepers, music.

## COLLEGE NEWS

1. Don Odom has been appointed dean of the Winters School of Music at William Carey University. A WCU graduate, Odom has served for 20 years as professor of church music and voice and chair of the division of music and worship at Baptist College of Florida. He holds bachelor and master of music degrees from WCU, and a doctor of musical arts degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has served churches in Miss., Al., La., and Fl.



1. Odom

2. Leah Urruchi, assistant director of the Baptist Student Union at William Carey University, recently led an 11-member team on a nine-day mission trip to Green River Community College outside Seattle, Wa. The trip was coordinated with Veritas Church, which has begun a campus outreach program similar to Baptist Student Unions in Mississippi.
3. Mississippi College in Clinton will host a record 62 students for the school's fifth annual summer music camp on July 4-10. Geared for students in grades seven through 12, the five-day residential camp features theory, music history, music technology, piano, and voice.
4. More than 172 students in grades six through 12 attended the recent HeartSong Music and Worship Arts Camp at William Carey College in Hattiesburg. Directed by Susan Luttrell and sponsored by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, the annual camp has been hosted by WCU for three years.



2. William Carey University

## MEET THE PURPOSE DRIVEN TOUR TEAM COMING TO A TOWN NEAR YOU WITH FALL TRIP INFORMATION

**BAY SPRINGS  
BELZONI  
BRANDON  
BROOKHAVEN  
CLEVELAND  
CLINTON  
COLUMBIA  
GREENVILLE**

**GREENWOOD  
HATTIESBURG  
LAUREL  
MERIDIAN  
PHILADELPHIA  
RALIEGH  
STARKVILLE**

CALL FOR DATE, TIME AND LOCATION-DISCOUNTS AND PRIZES  
MOST MEETINGS WILL BE DUTCH TREAT MEALS

## WORRY FREE TRAVEL WITH CHRISTIAN FRIENDS



Remaining 2010 trips: SCENIC PACIFIC NORTHWEST;  
NEW ENGLAND IN THE FALL; FALL IN VIRGINIA; COUNTRY CHRISTMAS;  
FLORIDA CHRISTMAS CAROL; BRANSON; PIGEON FORGE

CALL FOR BROCHURE, INFORMATION AND TO  
RESERVE PLACE AT GET AQUAINTED MEETINGS.

**601-371-8733**

MISSISSIPPI'S FASTEST GROWING CHRISTIAN ADULT TRAVEL COMPANY

Find out why  
[WWW.PURPOSEDRIVENTOURS.ORG](http://WWW.PURPOSEDRIVENTOURS.ORG)



## BIBLIOCIPHER

By Charles Marx, 1932 - 2004  
© 2005

DEZ NRT OHPLPN OHT-  
GVTNR TMHLTOOBX,  
NRGN PD NRT BGNNTL  
NPCTO OECT ORGBB  
WTHGLN YLEC NRT  
YGPNR, APJPD RTTW NE  
OTWISPD OHPLPNO,  
GDW WESNLPD TO EY  
WTJPBO.

YPLON NPCENRX YEIL:  
EDT

Clue: L = R

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation Three: Twenty

## THE POWER OF THE TONGUE

The doctor said, "Stick out your tongue!" He then took a tongue depressor and looked around to see if what I thought I had, I had — a sore throat — but he started the examination by telling me to stick out my tongue. Doctors must say that dozens of times a day because the tongue is constantly getting in the way of what they need to see. The Bible is filled with information about our tongues. The writer of Proverbs says that the power of life and death is in the tongue. It is a good thing and it is a destructive thing. James, in his little Book, writes that we have figured out how to steer a great ship through the water with a small little rudder and we can even control huge, strong horses by simply putting a bit in their mouths — but the tongue, "No man can control."

Recently I was in a gathering of senior adults and one of the men had told me that he was 90 years old and had driven himself to the meeting. When I got up to speak I was bragging on him because he was sharp as a tack, worked hard, and looked like he was in a whole lot better shape than I was. Then I asked, "Is anyone here older than 90?" Several people started pointing and this lady raised her hand and said, "Yeah, I am." I did not want to get in trouble, so I asked if she told people how old she was. "Oh yes," she replied. "I am 96 years old." I said, "Is anyone here older than 96?" No one responded. After the meeting a fellow told me that there were a couple of ladies there who were older than 96, but they could not hear what I was saying. I understand.

After I had spoken at the meeting, the sweet lady who was 96 came up and talked with me. One of the things that she wanted to show me was her shirt, on the back of which was an embroidered kind of message. She said, "Read this!" It said something like this. Lord, please



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

keep your hand around my shoulder and your other hand over my mouth.

I read it and laughed. She chuckled and then I asked her, "Does it work?" She smiled and said, "Yes, He keeps His hand on my shoulder."

The tongue is such a wonderful instrument of inspiration, encouragement, and blessing, but when it gets filled with poison, bitterness, and anger it does damage that cannot be repaired. I doubt there are any statistics that are totally accurate that would show exactly how many homes have been destroyed by drug addiction or how many may have been crushed by infidelity. While, no doubt, those things are destructive, I have seen more homes wrecked and more lives destroyed by the power of the tongue than any other weapon.

So is there any possible hope for our tongues to be controlled? No doubt James is right on target and correct that no man can control the tongue, but I believe and have observed that the power of the Spirit of God in a believer's life can control this vile, little creature that lives within us. The Holy Spirit cannot only control the tongue so that it will not destroy but control it so that it cannot destruct. Rather than tearing apart, it can put together. Rather than blistering, it can bless. Whether the tongue is used for good or evil, it is still a spiritual issue and only as we submit to the Lord can right things come from it. It is a heart matter. It may appear as though there are only 18 inches

That there are some things that we probably should always refrain from saying:

Things that are unknown. If you do not know, just stay quiet.

Things that are uncertain. If you are not sure about what you're talking about, it really isn't necessary for you to add to the discussion or especially to imply that you know something.

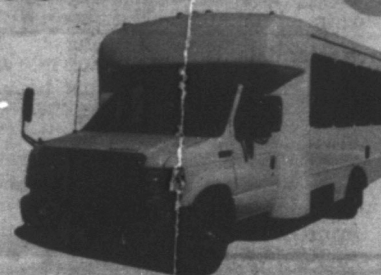
Things that are unnecessary. Maybe this is the most significant. It may be that you know and you are absolutely certain about what you know, but it may not be helpful to anyone in any way to pass along the information.

Maybe instead of hearing the doctor say, "Stick out your tongue," we ought to listen and hear the gentle words of the Lord saying, "Pull your tongue in!"

The author can be contacted at [jfutral@mbcb.org](mailto:jfutral@mbcb.org).

## Carpenter BUS SALES

going the extra mile since 1953



Visit [www.carpenterbus.com](http://www.carpenterbus.com) to see over 100 New & Used Buses in Stock. We buy buses and welcome Trade-Ins.

Call Toll Free: 800.370.6180

We Rent Buses!  
15 to 41 Passenger  
Buses Available  
Call Leann for Rates

LifeWay  
CHURCH BUS SALES  
Biblical Solutions for Life  
A Division of LifeWay Christian Resources

Holland America Line Cruise + Rose Parade Seats!

## Mexican Riviera Cruise

Plus... San Francisco - Big Sur Coastline - Hearst Castle  
Exclusive Float Viewing - The Rose Parade - San Diego

15 Days Departs December 26, 2010 from \$1598\*

Ask to be on the same bus with other Baptists!

Start in San Francisco for two nights with city tour. Travel south and visit Monterey, the 17 Mile Drive, and take California's scenic Highway One, along Big Sur. Tour the Hearst Castle and spend one night in the San Luis Obispo area. Visit the Danish Village of Solvang in route to Los Angeles. Take a city tour of Hollywood, Beverly Hills and L.A. plus enjoy an exclusive YMT, after public hours, up close, pre-parade float viewing. Talk to the artists and watch the finishing touches put on the floats, unencumbered by public crowds! On 12/31 have a free day or take an optional tour to the J. Paul Getty Museum and Reagan Library. On New Year's Day, you'll be taken to Pasadena for the Rose Parade with reserved grandstand seats. Board Holland's deluxe, state-of-the-art Oosterdam 1/210 in San Diego for a 6-night Mexican Riviera cruise to Puerto Vallarta, and Cabo San Lucas! Spend one day and night in San Diego with an included city tour before your flight home January 9. Add \$100 for outside or \$300 for balcony cabins! \*Per pers., dbl./occ. Airfare is extra.

For Details & Itinerary, Call 7 Days a Week:

YMT Vacations 1-800-736-7300

America's Best Choice for Affordable Travel Since 1967!

## CLASSIFIED ADS

PASTOR RESUMES MAY BE SENT to: First Baptist Church Nederland, Attention: Joe Mansfield 1911 Nederland Avenue, Nederland, Texas 77627 or e-mail: [joemansfield@aol.com](mailto:joemansfield@aol.com)  
GATLINBURG CABIN FOR RENT: 2 bd/2ba, full kitchen, great view of National Pk. \$95/night, 832-922-0401 / [pdfw4760@att.net](mailto:pdfw4760@att.net)

HOMEBOUND SUNDAY SCHOOL Teleconferencing. Call Tom 1-888-968-6186 "It is truly a blessing being able to fellowship with our homebound members through Sunday School and Worship Services, and then stay connected to the activities of the Church through homebound teleconferencing." Terry Robertson, SS Director, New Hope Baptist Church, Foxworth, MS

SPECIALTY TREE SERVICE. Tree Removal - Lot Clearing. Trimming - Stump Grinding - Insured. Free Estimate - 601-594-2823

BETSYSLILCABIN@YAHOO.COM at Lake Lincoln. \$250.00 weekly, \$60.00 nightly, 601-643-8817 or 601-940-6841.

STAINED GLASSWORKS, INC., SERVING MS & AL since 1992. Call 800-605-2970

SEBREN'S SIDING, JACKSON, Christian owned. All home improvements, vinyl siding, windows, metal and shingle roofs, patio covers, screen and glass rooms. 601-992-2092, Don & Rita Sebren, owners.

AFFORDABLE BEACHFRONT & BEACHSIDE VACATION CONDOS Gulf Shores and Orange Beach, Alabama. Best value on the beach! Lowest Prices! Over 25 Top Quality Condos! Owned & Operated by Christian Family since 1988 205-556-0368 or 205-752-1231 [www.gulfshorescondos.com](http://www.gulfshorescondos.com)

GET THE BEST RATES ON: Health Insurance and Medicare Supplements. Call 1-800-541-8196 or visit [www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com](http://www.TurnerInsuranceOnline.com)

STAINED GLASS: NEW WINDOWS and repairs. Hopper Stained Glass, Jackson, 601-502-0202.

CHURCH PEW UPHOLSTERY, FREE estimates. Davis Upholstery, Quitman, Miss., phone 601-776-6617.

## MS POSITIONS

SYLVA RENA BAPTIST CHURCH, Yalobush County, Ms. is seeking a full time Pastor. Please send resume to: Pastor Search Committee Chairman, 17846 Hwy 32, Water Valley, Ms. 38965.

GRANDVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH, Pearl, MS is seeking a church pianist to play for two Sunday services, and choir rehearsal Wednesdays. Please contact Mike @ 601-624-9389.

CORINTH BAPTIST CHURCH - Magee, MS is now accepting resumes for Youth Minister. Please submit resumes to: Youth Search Committee, 207 Church Road, Magee, MS 39111. The deadline for submission is June 30, 2010.

THE MUSIC SEARCH COMMITTEE of Star Baptist Church is now accepting resumes for a Full-time Worship Leader/Associate Minister. Please send resumes to [starbaptistresumes@gmail.com](mailto:starbaptistresumes@gmail.com)

VAIDEN BAPTIST CHURCH SEEKING a P/T Music Director. Send resumes to Music Minister Search Committee, c/o Homie Holly, Vaiden Baptist Church, 501 Mulberry Street, Vaiden, Ms. 39176 or Call 662-464-5275 or 662-464-8821.

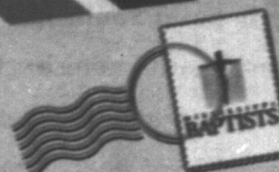




## THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST FOUNDATION

Summer 2010

Ima Witness  
Acts 1:8 Drive  
Hometown, MS



### My Missions Legacy

c/o Mississippi Baptist Foundation

P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205

**AIR MAIL**

While standing in line at the post office recently, I heard the exchange between a postal worker and a young lady who was perhaps about college age. Apparently, the customer had addressed the letter she wanted to mail backwards or opposite of the proper procedure. In the brief discussion that followed, I discovered that she had put her own name and address front and center on the envelope and the address of the letter's intended destination in upper left corner where the return address should have been. From her comments to the postal worker, I learned that she truly thought that she had addressed the envelope properly. The postal worker gently informed the young lady of the error as he said, "If you leave it like that, it'll come right back to you." He then proceeded to sell her another envelope for fifty-five cents!

One of the roles of the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is to promote Christian stewardship designed to help people across Mississippi achieve their estate planning and stewardship goals. To that end, Foundation staff strive to inform and encourage individuals and various groups to "address the envelope" with a Kingdom-focused destination. This edition of *Foundation News* highlights the manner in which some have chosen to address the envelope in a manner consistent with Christ's challenge in Acts 1:8 to be his witnesses in the local arena and around the world.



Daniel Hall  
Executive Director  
Mississippi Baptist Foundation



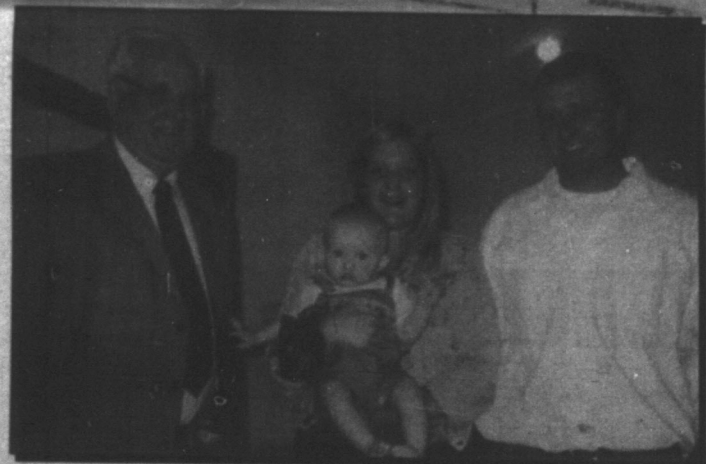
## JUST FOR THE RECORD



3. Rocky Point Church, Leake Association



4. New Hope Church, Benton/Tippah Association



5. Concord Church, Booneville



6. Mississippi Association race-off

1. The Mississippi Baptist Children's Village will host its Biennial Alumni Reunion from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on July 10 at the India Nunnery Campus in Jackson. Alumni dues are \$10. Lunch is five dollars per person. Reservations are encouraged. Contact Chrystelle Thames at (601) 922-2242.

2. Enterprise Church, Enterprise recently celebrated reaching their goal for the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions. GAs were treated to a diva party and also collected supplies for the Baptist Friendship House in New Orleans.

3. The G.A.'s of Rocky Point Church, Leake Association, held a tea for their mothers. Shown are the participants.

4. Members of New Hope Church, Benton/Tippah Association, cleaned up trees and other debris from the church grounds and cemetery in the aftermath of the severe storms and tornados that struck the area in May. They were assisted by the pastor and members of neighboring Mt. Zion Presbyterian Church. Shown are some of the participants.

5. Concord Church, Booneville, held a baby dedication May 9. Shown are pastor Robert E. Walker with Hope and Jake Barkley and baby Braden.

6. Mississippi Association recently held its 2010 R.A. race-off. Shown are the participants.

7. Greens Creek Church, Petal, held its annual Mother's Day Dinner on May 8. The mothers were served a steak dinner by the men of the church. Pictured are participants.

8. Fellowship Church, Ellisville, celebrated Mother's Day with a special service. Pictured are participants.

9. Center Hill Church, Olive Branch, presented certificates on June 13 for one-year perfect attendance at Sunday School to (from left) Ashley, Chloe, and Abby Britt.

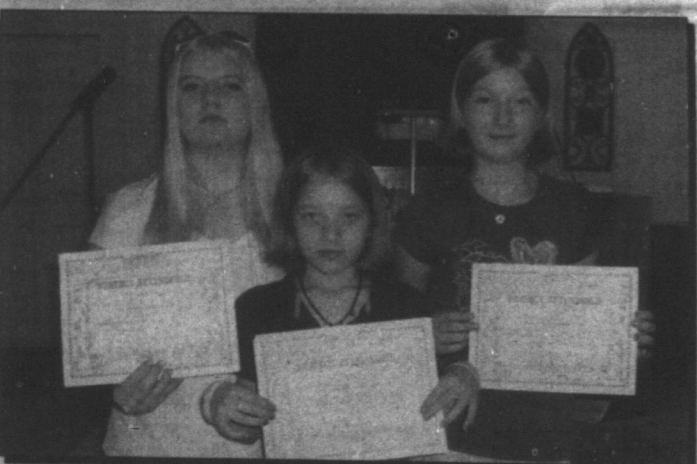
10. A total of 21 youth and adults from First church, Magee, spent June 7-12 at XFUGE at Samford University in Birmingham. Pictured are participants.



7. Greens Creek Church, Petal



8. Fellowship Church, Ellisville



9. Center Hill Church, Olive Branch



10. First Church, Magee



# Addressing the Envelope to North America: Building Churches

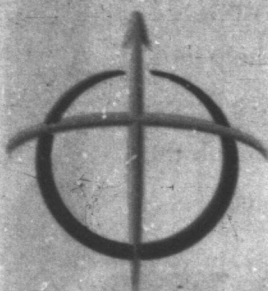
For fifty years, Frank and Zula Caperton modeled servant leadership with willing hearts and helping hands through missions and ministry within Mississippi and across much of North America. After graduating from Carthage High School as salutatorian in 1932 and then completing business school in Bowling Green, KY, Zula Givan returned to Carthage where she met and married Frank Caperton. Together, they served the Lord in several Mississippi towns including Lousiville, Stoneville, Leland, Greenville, and Greenwood. Upon retirement, the Capertons returned to Frank's hometown of Noxapater where they were active in the Noxapater Baptist Church.



ZULA CAPERTON

As active members of the *Campers on Mission* ministry of the North American Mission Board, Frank and Zula helped construct church facilities in several states including Wyoming, Oklahoma, and Arizona. These experiences with *Campers on Mission* made a profound and lasting impression on both Frank and Zula. As they would travel to assist with the building of churches in pioneer mission states, Frank and Zula observed first-hand the struggles of these new church starts.

With the goal of offering continual encouragement and necessary financial support for the planting of new churches, Zula established the "Frank and Zula Caperton Trust Fund" in 1988 through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. The earnings from this endowment are distributed to the North American Mission Board to provide building materials for small and needy churches in the United States.

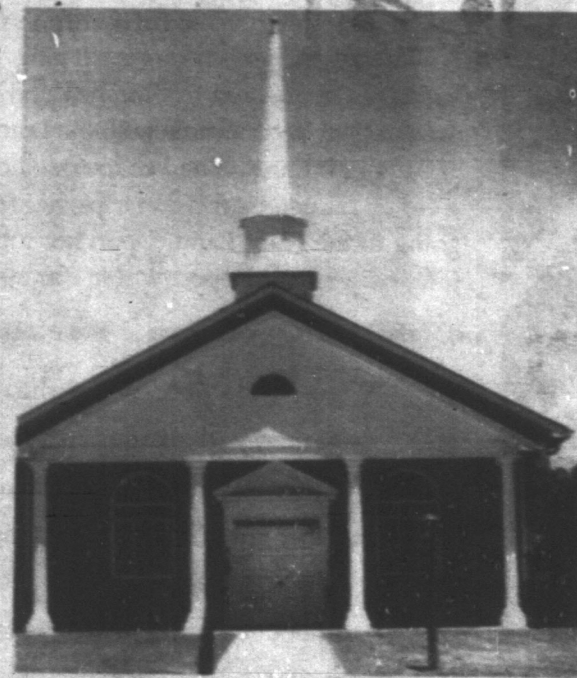


**NORTH AMERICAN  
MISSION BOARD**

In addition to the endowment focused on building churches, Zula also established both the "Frank and Corrine Caperton Memorial Scholarship" and the "Caperton Trust Fund." The memorial scholarship, established in honor of her husband and her sister-in-law, provides college scholarships for young people who are active at the Noxapater Baptist Church. The "Caperton Trust Fund" generates earnings for use in the perpetual care and upkeep of the Mt. Carmel Baptist Cemetery where many family members and friends are interred.

Thoughts and observations that were presented at Zula's recent funeral in Noxapater emphasized the spirit of selflessness, sincerity, and service with which Zula Caperton lived her life with a "desire to serve her Lord through ministry to others." Referencing Jesus' response to the inquiry by some of Jesus' disciples to receive special recognition, Wayne Sanders, a former pastor of the Noxapater Baptist Church, declared "Greatness in the kingdom of God is noted by a spirit of humility and servanthood (and) Zula found out what greatness was in the sight of the Lord (as) she was willing to be the least."

While I didn't have the opportunity to know Zula Caperton, the tangible expression of perpetual stewardship through the Mississippi Baptist Foundation underscores the willing heart and helping hands with which she served her Lord as she ministered to others. I have no doubt that the words "Well done, good and faithful servant" echoed in Zula's ears as she completed her 96-year earthly sojourn and received a new address that had been prepared and reserved for her in Glory!



NOXAPATER BAPTIST CHURCH



# Addressing the Envelope to Mississippi and Beyond: Baptist Children's Village, Son Valley, Disaster Relief

For over fifty years, the McDowell Road Baptist Church was a beacon of help and hope in South Jackson. After five decades of dedicated and fruitful ministry, the once robust congregation faced the reality of an aging local membership and a community in transition. Recognizing that both the continual decline in worshippers and the growing expenses associated with maintaining a sizeable facility were not favorable trends, the church voted to disband in late 2005 and to channel their ministry efforts in new directions.

Though the decision to close their doors was difficult, the ministry and mission focus of the McDowell Road Baptist Church continues to thrive through the "McDowell Road Baptist Church Mission Trust" that was established with the Mississippi Baptist Foundation. Proceeds from the sale of the church facility provided the corpus for this endowment and the annual earnings were designated for use by the Mississippi



FORMER MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF McDOWELL ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
ENJOY FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.



BILL MCCORMACK, PRESIDENT OF SON VALLEY; JIM DIDLAKE, DIRECTOR OF MEN'S MINISTRY, MBCB; RORY LEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BAPTIST CHILDREN'S VILLAGE; DANIEL HALL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MBF; WILLIAM WRIGHT, FORMER PASTOR, McDOWELL ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH; ROBERT EVANS, DEACON, MRBC

Baptist Children's Village, Son Valley residential community for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and Disaster Relief efforts through the Men's Ministry Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

At a recent reunion of former members and friends of the McDowell Road Baptist Church, representatives from each of these ministry organizations were presented with an initial distribution from this mission fund. Through the "McDowell Road Mission Trust," a group of believers that banded together to start a church in 1954 have addressed the envelope to leave a Kingdom-enriching legacy.





## JUST FOR THE RECORD



11. West Corinth Church

11. West Corinth Church recently recognized its children's Bible drillers Katie Aldridge (left) and Jerrod Wilemon.

12. The Women on Mission group of First Church, Pearl, collected 165 pairs of used eyeglasses and sunglasses to help the less fortunate. Pictured are participants.

13. First Church, Tupelo, recently recognized its 2010 Bible drillers. Participants included (back row, from left) Micah Russell, Kalie King, Trevor Sides, Hunter King, (front row, from left) Lauren Pugh, Lauren Hall, and Lily Pittman.

14. Royal Ambassadors and Girls in Action from Branch Church, Morton, toured the Morton Fire Department as part of their May mission study on disaster relief ministries. Pictured are participants.

15. Fellowship Church, Ellisville, held baby dedication on May 2 for Jackson Presley Sellers. Pictured are (from left) sister Kaitlin, parents Brian and Devon Sellers, and pastor Henry Freeman.

16. Hardy Church, Grenada, recently honored Elizabeth Smart for 54 years of service as church treasurer. She also serves as a Sunday School teacher and missions leader.

17. Concord Church, Booneville, held Homecoming and Mother's Day Program on May 9. The children of the church presented the program and led in music. Pictured are participants.



15. Fellowship Church, Ellisville



16. Hardy Church, Grenada



17. Concord Church, Booneville



12. First Church, Pearl



13. First Church, Tupelo



14. Branch Church, Morton

## STAFF CHANGES

1. Cedar Bluff Church, Golden Triangle Association, has called Shannon Edwards at pastor. He was ordained June 20 and will assume the pastorate on June 27. Tom Harris has served as interim pastor.

2. Jay Yarbrough (right) was ordained to the Gospel ministry on June 6 by First Church, Sumrall. Pictured with Yarbrough is pastor Glenn Davis.



MISSISSIPPI  
BAPTISTS



2. First Church, Sumrall



# Addressing the Envelope to the World: The Cooperative Program



RAYBON AND KARENZA  
SPRATLIN

To folks around Calhoun County, Mississippi, Raybon and Karenza Spratlin are remembered as models of Christian discipleship that are worthy of emulation. As residents of Calhoun City, MS and members of the First Baptist Church, Raybon and Karenza contributed mightily to the cause of Christ as they prayed for, participated in, and provided for Kingdom endeavors through Southern Baptist missions

and ministries. After the Lord called Raybon to "higher service" with Him several years ago, Karenza continued her active involvement with local and global missions through her church.

In June 2009 when she was 94 years young, *The Journal* (Calhoun City, MS) presented a feature on Karenza Spratlin. In that article, Karenza indicated that her secret to a long and healthy life was to begin every day with God. Spending time with her Heavenly Father through prayer, Bible reading, and praise were top priorities in Karenza's daily activity. A quaint prayer garden nestled among tall pine trees on the edge of her yard was frequented by Karenza and others who desired a quiet retreat to commune with the Lord.

Although Karenza had chaperoned church youth trips and went on numerous mission trips, her favorite experience was going to the Holy Land. Upon her return, reading the Bible took on a new perspective for Karenza because she "could



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

visualize it all." In addition, she was known to sing from a church hymnal as she exercised on a treadmill.

Though she was active in civic clubs and community organizations, Karenza's life revolved around First Baptist Church where she was a leader in various ministry and mission groups. By her own admission, "the Lord has us here for a purpose and that's to help others."

For Karenza Spratlin, the Lord's purpose to help others extended beyond her own sojourn upon this earth. Through her Last Will and Testament, Karenza left the vast majority of her material possessions to the Mississippi Baptist Foundation for the establishment of the "Raybon and Karenza Spratlin Memorial Fund" with all proceeds being designated for the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention.



KARENZA'S PRAYER GARDEN

Upon reflection, when the postal worker who patiently explained to the customer "if you address it that way, it'll come right back to you," he embraced a key aspect of Christian stewardship. For you see, when blessings are selflessly and generously issued to others, the immediate and lasting result is a host of blessings that "come right back to you." The Spratlins,

Capertons, and the McDowell Road Baptist Church are just a few examples of those who addressed the envelope with a Kingdom destination. As a "laborer together with God," the Mississippi Baptist Foundation is available to help individuals, churches, and other Baptist ministries leave a legacy by addressing their envelope front and center with the goal of bringing Mississippi and the world to Jesus.



# Garaywa campers seeing double(s) this summer

By Erica Hagar  
Correspondent

Hayley and Julianna Pardue think alike and talk alike. They even grin alike. So do Becca and Rachel Tarleton, and this summer, both sets of fraternal twins serve as cabin leaders at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton.

"We've always been together while we've been at Garaywa, and this summer is no different," said Julianna, who along with her sister attended Garaywa for nine summers as campers and is currently a sophomore at Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College in Clinton.

"We worked as CITs (Cabin Leaders in Training) for three years in high school, and it was just a natural transition to move into a cabin leader role this summer," Julianna said.

Members of Wynndale Church in Terry, the Pardues grew up attending Mission Friends, GAs, and Acteens, all of which are mission organizations sponsored by the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union.

The Pardue twins' Mississippi Baptist roots run deep. Their grandparents, Lois and the late Guy Henderson, served as career missionaries with the International Mission Board.

After retiring from the mission field, Guy Henderson served as evangelism director and later as editor of The Baptist Record at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

The young women also have an uncle, aunt, and cousins still on the international mission field.

"We dreamed about being cabin leaders one day and it's actually happened," said Hayley, a sophomore at Baptist-affiliated Blue Mountain College in Blue Mountain.

The Tarletons, on the other hand, never heard of Garaywa until they went to college — Becca to Baptist-affiliated Union University in Jackson, Tn., and Rachel to Oklahoma Baptist University in Oklahoma in Shawnee, Ok.

They'd never been to Mississippi until they arrived at Garaywa for their first day on staff.

"We grew up as missionary kids in Moscow, Russia. That's home for us. We lived there from the time we were three until we came to America for college," Rachel said. "GAs regularly sent us letters and packages when we were in Russia. It made us feel really special to hear from girls our age in America."

"We even had pen pals sometimes," Becca added. "It was encouraging to know that people in America were just like us. They would write and tell us about themselves, and we were able to see that we were all the same, we just lived in a different place."

As both sisters contemplated how to spend their summer, they learned that "the mission of Garaywa is missions." That's all it took.

"My favorite part of being a cabin leader so far is getting to teach our missions camper's choice track. I get to lead the girls in writing letters to missionary kids and watch as they get excited about doing missions right where they are. Most of our campers are too young to go anywhere, but they are doing hands-on missions right here," said Becca.

The theme for camp this summer is Heart for This City, based on Matthew 9:36. The goal is for campers to not only have a fun-filled camping experience, but to come to know the Lord in a personal way, to understand that they are uniquely created by God, and to catch a vision of what they can do in missions.

"It's really humbling that God would use us in this way. We had a little camper in our cabin the first week who got saved while she was here. In the midst of the craziness of camp, God is allowing deeper conversations to take place that are making an eternal difference," Rachel said.

For Hayley, evening worship is her favorite part of the day. "I love seeing little girls worship. It's so genuine," she said.



BETTER BY THE PAIR — Twins Rachel (top left) and Becca Tarleton (bottom left) take time from their busy schedule as cabin leaders at Garaywa Camp and Conference Center in Clinton to horse around with Julianna (top right) and Hayley Pardue. (Photo by Erica Hagar)

"I love being able to share in worship about being a missionary kid myself. I love getting to tell them that I was just like them as a kid," Rachel added.

Garaywa Camp and Conference Center, located within the Clinton city limits, has been hosting Mississippi Baptist GA (Girls in Action) and Acteens camps since 1947.

Funding by the Margaret Lackey State Missions Offering, the Mississippi Cooperative Program, the Edwina Robinson WMU Special Day offering, and a nominal camper fee allow up to 252 campers to come through the gates each week.

"I remember coming as a camper and hearing all week long that I was a daughter of the King. It was the first time I can remember that I felt beautiful," said Julianna.

"That's what it's all about," said Becca. "Girls who feel unloved can be loved for the first time. Girls who don't know Christ can leave with Christ. Girls who are hungry for more, find more."

Mississippi Baptists have played an intricate role in reaching people through Garaywa as they have prayed for its ministry, donated their gifts and time in service there, and given generously to the Margaret Lackey offering. Garaywa still has spots open for girls who have completed the third through the sixth grades during the weeks of July 12-16 and July 19-23.

For more information or to register, visit [www.garaywa.org](http://www.garaywa.org) or call (601) 924-7034.

Hagar is missions impact correspondent for the Mission Strategy division of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board in Jackson.

## Ministers' wives advised to reach out to mentors for encouragement

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP and local reports) — An overflow crowd of more than 1,850 women focused on ways to mentor ministry marriages at the Ministers' Wives Conference June 15 in Orlando, Fla., held in conjunction with the 2010 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Based on Titus 2:3-5, in which the Apostle Paul advises the

young leader to "encourage the young women to love their husbands... so that God's message will not be slandered," the theme Mentoring Ministry Marriages was selected because the Bible clearly challenges women to mentor other women, Rhonda Kelley, conference president, said.

Kelley is professor of women's ministry and director

of women's ministry programs at New Orleans Seminary, and her husband Chuck Kelley is the seminary's president.

This year's program featured Jackie Kendall of Power to Grow Ministries and author of The Mentoring Mom and the recently published Free Yourself to Love (The Liberating Power of Forgiveness). Kendall raised

\$16,000 to provide copies of the book to all attendees.

In her remarks, Kendall, who has ministered through teaching and counseling for more than 30 years, pointed out that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was mentored by her elder cousin, Elizabeth, who was "a little further along in her miracle."

Kendall urged the younger women in the room not to wait for older, experienced women to mentor them. "You go see Elizabeth," she said. "You go to the older woman."

Kendall said she would often "spy" on other women to see if their walk in Christ was worthy of emulating. "Watch for the women who are living it, not just speaking it," she said.

Focusing on forgiveness, Kendall shared three proverbs with the women: Being offend-

ed is inevitable, but staying there is by choice; we daily need to forgive one another for doing what we do best — being human — and if I go to bed angry with my spouse, I will wake up a little less in love in the morning.

Kendall said contrary to Ephesians 4:32, which exhorts believers to be "kind and compassionate to one another,"

many in the body of Christ are the "stingiest forgivers."

Pointing to her difficult upbringing, so difficult that two of her seven siblings committed suicide and the others face addictions, she added, "I've learned to forgive my dad who abused us and my mom who sat and watched it all. Why can't people forgive another staff member in the church?"

Freely forgive those who offend you, she said.



Kendall

### CD or IRA Maturing?

Learn about a safe investment that beats low bank rates & avoid probate

Ask us about 7.5% Guaranteed Income Growth Rider

O'Mire Financial  
Life Insurance and Annuities  
1-800-844-3254  
406 B Orchard Park Dr.  
Ridgeland, MS 39157

### ANNIVERSARIES/HOMECOMINGS

1. County Line Church, Union: 150th anniversary; September 26. For more information, call (601) 774-9077 or e-mail david.jay@att.net.

2. First Church, Morton: 150th Anniversary; June 26-27. Sat., antique car show,

street dedication, costume parade, dinner, and special celebration; Sun., history presentation, recognition of former staff, special celebration worship, and lunch. For more information, call (601) 732-8941.

3. County Line Church, Ovett: 150th Anniversary; June 26-27. Sat., reception and reminiscing, 4 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. Worship Service followed by noon lunch; 1:30 p.m. afternoon service.

**Nick Clark**  
Sell your real estate, business, or personal estate in 30 days!  
FREE CONSULTATION  
601-317-2536  
www.nickclarkauctions.com  
REAL ESTATE BROKER • AUCTIONEER • APPRAISER



# THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

P.O. Box 27  
Clinton, MS 39060-0027  
(601) 922-2242

[www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com)

## GIFTS OF HONOR AND MEMORY

A portion of The Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH, 2010

### MEMORIALS

Eddie Jennings  
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis L. Cranford  
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald McPhail  
Charles M. (Jake) & Mary Dean Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Butler  
Mrs. Julia Johnson  
Rev. & Mrs. Wayne Edwards  
Mr. George Jones, Sr.  
Mrs. Charlotte Vickers  
Ainey & Ethelyn Jones  
Ms. Marsha J. Talbert  
Bobby Gene Jones  
Mr. William E. Barron  
Mrs. Lavada Jones  
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace A. Clay  
Mrs. Marguerite H. Walters  
Mr. Gene Joyner  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Coleman  
Mrs. Barbara Justice  
Mr. & Mrs. George R. Faulk  
Mrs. Doris J. Young  
Peggy Joyce Kemp  
Ms. Jo Ann Dempsey  
Bobby Kirk  
Mrs. Dorthy T. Whitten  
Francis C. Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Huey Duncan  
Mark Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Coward Jr.  
Mrs. Martha B. Lee  
Mr. Walter Gilmer  
Mr. & Mrs. Tom Gunter  
Gunter  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence D. King  
Mr. & Mrs. Cliff Mayfield  
Mr. Charles Williams  
Ms. Elizabeth Lee Maron

Mrs. Mera C. Hall  
Dr. & Mrs. James E. Parkman  
Storm Creek Hunting Club  
Mr. & Mrs. Woodie A. Mitchell  
Hannah SSC, FBC, Clinton  
Dr. & Mrs. T. Scott McCay  
Mr. Byron Lee  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Mrs. David (Kay Gruette) Legge  
Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ray Leggett  
Bess L. Lewis  
Mr. & Mrs. John South Lewis  
Mrs. Margaret Lindley  
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Hailey  
Roger Lindsley  
Mrs. E. M. Lindsley  
Wayne Lofton  
Jerry & Jane Sisco  
Dorris Oline Luby  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy C. Williams  
Billy D. Lumpkin  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny M. Fox  
Hazel Massengale  
Ms. Ruby M. Bancroft  
Marie McClendon  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton  
McCool, Horace  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen  
George McFadin  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Green  
Mrs. Mary Helen McGraw  
Ms. Louise Templeton  
Paul McMillan  
Mr. & Mrs. Bryan Manley  
William Mitchell  
Mr. & Mrs. Glen King  
"Sig" Harrell Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis H. Perkins

Jimmie Moore  
Ms. Sandra Federick  
Ms. Rosemary G. Wright  
Jimmy Glenn Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. James Austin Alford  
Pleasant Hill BC, Carthage  
Mrs. Sarah C. Scott  
Mrs. Aurice Moore  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mrs. Wydell Moree  
Mr. & Mrs. Fredrick E. Forbes  
Vincent T. Morehouse  
Mr. & Mrs. W. Price Toler  
Mrs. Mildred Morrison  
Mr. & Mrs. E. J. Grisham Sr.  
Jimmy Munn  
Dr. Van D. Quick  
Jon Munn  
The Clay Englishes  
Robert & Carolyn Sullivan  
Bob Sullivan  
Mrs. Audrey Freeman Murff  
Mrs. Jo C. Freeman  
Ms. Kaye P. Johnson & Family  
Dr. Randy Marcel & Family  
Golden Circle Class, FBC, Jackson  
Scripture Sisters SSC  
Mrs. Jane H. Bailey  
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence R. Brown  
Mrs. Georgia S. Canon  
Dr. and Mrs. Jay Douglas  
Pam Edwards  
Ms. Norma H. Kohl  
Mrs. Ann H. Marble  
Ms. Betty J. Temple  
Rev. Bob Myers  
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Poag  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert D. Batson  
Billy Naron  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen  
Earnestine Berry Nations  
Sharon & Herman Dungan  
Kenneth Nowicki  
Mrs. Harry Neal Corder  
Mr. Marion O'Neal  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Cook  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mr. Clint Odum  
Mr. & Mrs. James D. Randall Sr.  
Maxey D. Parish, Jr.  
Deer Creek BC, Rolling Fork  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith  
Mrs. Dorothy McCool Parker  
Mrs. Millard F. Hubbard  
Mr. Cliff Pate  
Mrs. Lucille H. Harris  
Florence Patterson  
Ms. Amy Cooper  
Robby Payne  
Billy Anders SSC, Galilee, Gloster  
William David Peeler  
Mr. & Mrs. William L. Peeler  
Mr. Otis Pell  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L. Culpepper  
Claudine Porter Peters  
Mr. & Mrs. James Jones  
John Poland  
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Burkheimer  
Charles Porch  
Mr. Randal James  
Ruth Clower Prassel  
Mrs. Marilyn B. Thompson  
Mrs. Edith Pratt  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Eva Lou Pressnell  
David & Jo Ellen Doss  
Mary C. Pund  
Ms. Nora Meadows  
Jerry R. Ratliff  
Jerry & Jane Sisco

Ruby "Jackie" Rawls  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Buchanan  
Mr. W. S. Rayborn  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen  
Rev. John Ready  
Mr. & Mrs. Francis J. Speights  
Alice Maxine Reese  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Spain Jr.  
Maxine Reese  
Mrs. Sharon Hays  
Mrs. Mary Lynn Perkins & Family  
Mrs. Maxine Reese  
Dr. & Mrs. Anthony S. Kay  
Mary Ellis Reeves  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton  
Mrs. Bessie Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. W. M. McElroy  
Mrs. Ethlyn Reynolds  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Mary Lou Riley  
Pine Burr BC  
Clara Mae Roberts  
Sharon & Herman Dungan  
J. L. Roberts  
Mr. & Mrs. S. F. Carlisle  
Mrs. Polly Robertson  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell  
Douglas Rone  
Mr. & Mrs. Ron Bennett  
Mr. Robert Roshelle  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Allen  
Gerardine Ross  
Mrs. Joyce C. Allen  
Lou Ross  
Ms. Mary Upchurch  
Adell Mowdy Rush  
Eunice SSC, Yale Street BC  
Mrs. Adele Rush  
Ms. Judy Murrell  
Maya Ashlyn Rushing  
Mr. & Mrs. Dewayne Rand  
Donna Russell  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Coleman  
Mrs. Mary Ryan  
Minnie Lou Bullock  
Libby Bullock  
Norma Hardage Sanders  
Mr. James B. Hardage  
Traci Sasser  
Mr. & Mrs. Barney J. Albritton  
Gloria Schreck  
Mrs. Mera C. Hall  
Frank Slipper  
Mr. Bruce Rawls  
Mrs. Ramona Smiley  
Mr. & Mrs. J. M. Smiley  
Jimmy Smith  
Mrs. Linda S. Campbell  
Philip & Kathy Patrick  
Mary Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Brand

Ms. Olga Smith  
Jerry & Jane Sisco  
Shirley Smith  
Jerry & Jane Sisco  
Reese Snell  
Ms. Jenny P. Duke  
Joe Sones  
Philip & Kathy Patrick  
Elizabeth Sparks  
Mrs. Doris G. Boyer  
Mr. Verlon Spiers  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel A. Smith  
Van Springer  
Ladies SSC, Parkview BC, Leland  
Mrs. Doris Stafford  
Dr. Sharon P. Dungan  
Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Fortenberry  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy H. Bridges  
Ms. Grace M. Grubbs  
Mrs. Irma Stafford  
Mr. & Mrs. James R. Blair  
Hiram Stanford  
Mrs. Pat H. Stanford  
Sam Stewart  
TEL SSC, FBC, Magee  
Mr. Ward G. Stokes  
Mr. and Mrs. Brooks H. Polk  
Roy W. Stone, Sr.  
Ms. Lawanda Chandler  
Jamie L. Strong  
Bolton BC  
Mr. Jesse Stroud  
Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L. Culpepper  
Mr. Roy Sweatt  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry E. Champion  
Martha Dale Tate  
Mr. & Mrs. Stuart V. Allen  
Kiara Taylor  
Mississippi College Cheerleaders  
Mr. Calvin Taylor  
Mrs. Calvin Malone  
Charles A. Tennison  
Ms. Linda H. Shaw  
Mr. James Tharp, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph L. Carroll  
Charles V. Thomas  
Ms. Mary Rose Thomas  
Edwin Prendergast Thomas, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Tyler  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Bruton  
William Thomas  
The Ray Scott Family  
William J. "Bill" Tiller  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy B. Carruth  
Jo & Jimmie Smiley  
Sweet Spirit Singers, Liberty BC  
Mr. Reece Tillman  
Mr. & Mrs. J. V. Parker  
Charles Tiner  
Mrs. Carol J. Rather  
Howard & Inel Treadway  
Mr. & Mrs. Major A. Treadway II  
John Troy  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Wasson

Mr. W. C. Tubby  
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Jenkins  
Elizabeth Tullos  
McHann & Associates PLLC  
Mrs. Janette W. Dalton  
Sam Turnage  
Mrs. Eva M. Moree  
Patty C. Tynes  
Ms. Grace M. Dunigan  
Ms. Margaret Tyrone  
Mrs. Jacqueline H. Green  
Gloria Walley  
Mrs. Dorothy L. Walley  
Oren Walley  
Fidelis SSC, FBC, Richton, MS  
Dickie Walters  
Ms. Barbara B. Easterling  
Murry Weatherford  
Midway BC, Meridian  
Mr. J. L. Webber  
Mrs. Rachel C. Browning  
Mrs. Bernadine Welch  
Mr. & Mrs. Krandal Howell  
Mrs. Nancy F. Soyars  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Abel  
Mrs. Tena Haskins  
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Khalaf  
Charles V. Welch  
Ms. Damie B. Brenholtz  
Baxter & Sue White  
Dr. & Mrs. Bobby R. Thornton  
Mrs. Bobbie Sue White  
Mr. George T. Miller  
Faculty & Staff - Columbia Academ  
Ms. Ada Pittman  
Mr. & Mrs. Lester Haddox  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Pace  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry M. Howell  
Shanna Whitt  
Mississippi College Cheerleaders  
Austin Wilkinson  
Jerry & Jane Sisco  
Ms. Katherine Smith  
Dovie Derene (Espey) Williams  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Espey  
Peggy Williams  
Ms. Patricia Hancock  
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Miller  
Mr. Robert Wilson  
Mrs. Reece Douglas Jr.  
Betsy Compton Wise  
Mr. & Mrs. Terry H. Blalock  
Billy Withen  
Mr. & Mrs. John E. Wright  
Dr. Arthur Wood, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Ervin Jr.  
A. L. Zeigler  
Parkview BC, Leland  
Vera F. Ziegler  
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Harrington

## BCV Bi-Annual Alumni Reunion

Saturday, July 10, 2010

### Schedule

10:00 a.m. Registration at BCV Headquarters (805 N Flag Chapel Rd)  
11:00 a.m. Depart for Star, MS to tour new India Nunnery Campus  
12:30 p.m. Lunch and entertainment from Percy Peeler (husband of alumnus Hilda McHann Peeler)

3:00 p.m. Leave Star and return to BCV Headquarters

4:00 p.m. Adjourn

Alumni dues \$10

Lunch Cost \$5

Contact: Mrs. Chrystelle Thames, BCV Director of Public Relations, at 601-922-2242 or [cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com](mailto:cthames@baptistchildrensvillage.com).

Visit [www.baptistchildrensvillage.com](http://www.baptistchildrensvillage.com) or follow The BCV on Facebook and Twitter for more info.



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### The Power of Choice

1 Samuel 13:8-13; 16:6-13

By Tony Martin

Often times, when churches try to fill leadership positions, they tend to go with people who have been successful in other life venues. We evaluate people based on past successes, skills, abilities and even looks. Certainly this is not to say that people who have been successful in the world can't be effective in the church. It does mean that God can raise up leaders from the most unlikely of backgrounds, because He doesn't judge by outward appearance or ability - He looks at the heart.

In 13:8-13, we see Saul as king. He is at Gilgal, and his troops are terrified at what might happen because of the Philistine forces arrayed against them. Samuel had told Saul that it would be seven days before he would show up. Was Samuel trying to

make Saul fail, or just reminding the new king who was in charge? The Lord was most likely testing Saul's faith and patience. Patience can be a challenging virtue; with microwave ovens, high-speed internet, and fast food, we are not a culture used to having to wait.

When Saul's men begin to scatter (v. 8), Saul acts on his own. He didn't want to go into battle without first offering a sacrifice. Later, in 15:22, Samuel would remind Saul that God seeks obedience and not sacrifice. In contradiction to what Samuel had requested, Saul makes the sacrifice anyway.

Saul was way off base in thinking he could disobey God and get away with it. His pride, disobedience, and deception were judged by God. Often, we feel pressure from others to make



Martin

decisions contrary to God's plan for us. Samuel says, prophetically, that "your kingdom will not endure" (v. 14), and this cost Saul his dynasty and his kingdom.

This set the stage for Samuel anointing David. God sent Samuel to Jesse of

Bethlehem, for God had chosen one of Jesse's sons to be king. In 16:6-10, Samuel is found at Jesse's fellowship feast after his arrival in Bethlehem. Samuel looked at seven of Jesse's sons, initially operating by sight and not by faith. David was the eighth son; six of his brothers are named in scripture (Eliab, Abinadab, Shimea, Nathaniel, Raddi, and Ozem - the genealogy in 1 Chron. 2:13 - 15 only mentions seven sons, but v. 10 speaks of how seven sons came before Samuel, so perhaps one son had died and his name dropped out of the genealogy.) Samuel seems frustrated at first, thinking, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here

before the Lord" after seeing Eliab (v. 6.) But none of these were the chosen king. The Lord told Samuel to not look at his appearance or his height. God alone can see a man's heart, and know what his true motives are. Even if others misjudge us, God knows us perfectly and completely. We should make it a habit to look past the outward appearance of others.

Enter David (16:11-13). David was of so little consequence in the family that Jesse didn't even call him in from tending the sheep to come to the feast. David's role as shepherd is not just for narrative color. David, as a literal shepherd, would be called on to be a national shepherd. His role was to know his sheep, love them, and take care of them.

Scripture makes a point of describing David's physical appearance. Unlike other Semitic people of that day, David was fair skinned and light (perhaps even red) haired. He would be the kind of person who would win people over.

Samuel found the man of

God's choosing. Samuel anointed David, using the horn of oil. Scripturally, only prophets, priests, and kings were anointed, and Samuel was empowered to do the task. Oil is often seen as a symbol of the Holy Spirit and being anointed showed His power coming to rest on an individual. At the same time, the Spirit of the Lord had left Saul (v. 14), and without the Spirit, any servant of God is helpless to do God's will.

We may think that we are unlikely candidates for God's service, but God always looks at our motives and attitudes first. It is presumptuous to think "God can't use me," because that is doubting the bigness and sovereignty of God. Beyond ourselves, there may be others around us who seem to be unfit for God's service, but only God knows His plan for them. God equips and empowers people when He chooses them for service.

Martin is the Associate Editor of *The Baptist Record*.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### What Can I Do?

1 Corinthians 8:1 - 11:34

By Laura Leathers

Freedom! Independence! Liberty! The Founding Fathers of the United States had these words at their core as they crafted The Declaration of Independence. These three words "refer to an absence of undue restrictions and an opportunity to exercise one's rights and powers." Freedom also means responsibility and doing what is right for the betterment of the citizens of this nation and for some, this means sacrificing their lives.

However, the greatest sacrifice for freedom came when Jesus Christ willingly died on Calvary's cruel cross to set a person free from the bondage of sin. "It was for freedom that Christ set us free (Gal. 5:1)." "Christian freedom is never to be an excuse for self-indulgence or license (McArthur Study Bible)." It is a Christian's

responsibility to do what is right because of his love for the Lord. How can a Christian know what makes a behavioral choice appropriate? Consider using the following four questions as wise counsel from the apostle Paul.

**Is It Based on Love? -**

1 Cor. 8:1-3

In the eighth chapter of Corinthians Paul moves on to another topic: "Now concerning things sacrificed to idols." This is what the Corinthians were dealing with: "The Greeks and Romans were polytheistic (worshiping many gods) and polydemonistic (believing in many evil spirits). They believed that evil spirits would try to invade human beings by attaching themselves to food before it was eaten, and that the spirits could be removed only by the food's being sacrificed to a god... then that which was



Leathers

not burned on the altar was served at pagan feasts or sold in the market (McArthur Study Bible)." This is what the Gentile believers had left behind. The mature believers knew the idols did not exist and the food was not contaminated.

However, the immature believers still had problems regarding the subject. Paul reminds the mature believers to be sensitive not to use their freedom to offend or hurt the weaker believers. Love for the brethren is the proof of knowing God. Love is the foundation, the guiding factor, of a Christian's behavior (1 John 4:19-5:1).

**Will It Harm Others? -**

1 Cor. 8:9-13; 10:23-24

One of the virtues of a Christian should be the desire of putting others first, being a servant and wanting what is best for another. Christians need to encourage, edify, and promote godly living in others. The more mature a believer becomes the more conscious they are of their behavior and how it impacts

others. Christians have liberty but they are not to take it and cause another to stumble. A believer's freedom through Christ is not a license to sin. Believers must remember "it is a mark of maturity when we balance our freedom with responsibility; otherwise, it ceases to be freedom and becomes anarchy, lawlessness (Warren Weirsb)." In verse twelve Paul gives a strong warning regarding Christians harming others. It is more than an offense against the person; it is against the Lord Himself. Freedom must be balanced by responsibility. Our behavior does affect others spiritually.

**Is It Evangelistic? -**

1 Cor. 9:19-23

Notice the phrase "a slave to all". Paul was not a chameleon or a compromiser; he was an ambassador for Christ. "What separated Jews and Gentiles in that day—the law and the covenants (Eph. 2:11-15). In his personal life, Paul so lived that he did not offend either the Jews or the Gentiles. He did not parade his liberty before the Jews, nor did he impose the law on the

Gentiles (Wiersbe)." Paul gave up his rights so that he might win others to Christ. Wiersbe calls this "total abandonment to the higher law of love." Paul followed the example of Jesus and became a servant of all so that they might know Him (Phil. 3:8-11). Our behavior should lead others to Christ.

**Will It Glorify God? -**

1 Cor. 10:31-11:1

Love is the foundation and glorifying God is the crown of a Christian's behavior. How do we glorify God? The answer is in "whatever we do". We are to walk worthy of the calling and behave in ways which are consistent with our identity in Christ. This is how He is glorified in and through our lives. This is what draws others to Him.

Paul firmly stated, "Be imitators of me just as I also am of Christ" so that the name of our Lord Jesus will be glorified in you and you in Him... (2 Thessalonians 1:12).

A believer's behavior testifies, In God I trust!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

# THE BAPTIST Record

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.



## BIBLE STUDIES FOR LIFE

### When I Make Poor Choices

1 Samuel 8:6-9; 12:13-25

By Tony Martin

Let's call it "the law of unintended consequences." That is — if you make a bad choice, the outcome might be worse than anything you could have imagined.

Fortunately, we are loved by a God of grace. Even when we make poor choices, God can still work in us and through us.

"Give us what we want," the people cried, and God granted their request. In 8:5, the people wanted a king "to lead us, such as all the other nations have" (NIV). Problem is, Israel was not to be like the other nations. The elders believed that since they were threatened by people all around them, such as the Philistines and the Ammonites, they had to protect themselves. They wanted a king who would fight for them. They had

forgotten that the Lord Himself was their king.

Samuel, who was very insightful, understood that their desire for a king was evidence of the spiritual weakness of the elders. God said to Samuel in v. 7, "...it is not you they have rejected but they have rejected me as their king." This wasn't the first time they had rejected God. Instead of trusting in God, they elected to lean on the power of man.

For us, the lesson is clear: be careful what you pray for. God might just grant it. We have to guard ourselves about allowing our desires to replace God in our hearts. These desires might not be "bad," but if they are not what God wants for us at the time, then we fall into a subtle form of idolatry.

As noted, there are conse-

quences for choices. In 12:13-19, Samuel reminded the people that even though they had a king they still had an obligation to worship and follow the Lord.

God's response to Israel is redemptive. In spite of the sinfulness of their request,

God did indeed give them a king, incorporating that earthly office into His plan for Israel.

Samuel tells the people, "If you fear the Lord and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the Lord your God — good!" (v. 14, NIV). Even when we make bad choices, we can return to God. Samuel demonstrates the power of God by praying for thunder and rain. He calls upon the Lord and that same day God brings the storms, just in time for the wheat harvest.

This is reminiscent of the signs Moses and Aaron did in

Egypt, and the people's response to Samuel sounds a bit like Pharaoh's — "Pray to the Lord your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king" (v. 19, NIV). Samuel was able to demonstrate to the people that God could do anything if they trusted and obeyed. God can work through our poor choices for His purposes.

So the Jews were repentant, learning once more that God was in control. Samuel moved them from a position of being afraid to "do not be afraid" (v. 20). He acknowledges that the people have done evil, but continues by encouraging them not to turn away from the Lord. God would not forsake the Israelites because He had made a covenant with them and would remain faithful to them. God's purpose included using Israel to bring glory to His name. The covenant stood; if the people obeyed Him, then He would

bless them. Conversely, if they were disobedient, God would punish them.

This is a perfect model as to how we should relate to God. He is always in control. For anything to be out of His control would totally negate His power. Our response to Him should be one of revering Him, being thankful toward Him, and serve Him continually. Even when we are experiencing the consequences of our poor choices, our response is one of worship. He will not abandon us, ever.

Finally, note the place of prayer. Samuel considered a lack of prayer for his people a grave sin against God Himself. He promised to teach the Israelites "the way that is good and right" (v. 25, NIV). Leaders need to realize how important their prayers are in supporting their followers, and followers need to realize how important the prayers of their leaders are.

Martin is the Associate Editor of *The Baptist Record*.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### What Should I Do?

1 Corinthians 7:1-41

By Laura Leathers

God designed marriage to be monogamous and unbroken (Genesis 1, 2). The Lord Jesus taught about the institution of marriage (Matt. 5:31-32; 19:1-12; Mark 10:1-12; Luke 16:18). Here in the seventh chapter of Corinthians we find Paul sharing basic truths regarding marriage built upon Jesus' teaching. Paul gives practical application in response to specific questions the Corinthians had put forth in a letter. Should they divorce and be single? Was celibacy more spiritual than marriage? What should they do if they were married to an unbeliever? Does a widow need to remarry? Take time to read the entire chapter as you study this lesson.

Where to Begin — 1 Cor. 7:10-11

We begin by realizing marriage is to be a lifelong commitment between a man and a woman—a covenant relation-

ship. Here in this text the word "leave" means to divorce. "But the Lord" made it clear in Matthew 5:31, 32 and 19:5-8 that divorce was not God's idea but man's. Paul goes on to say if divorce should occur, it was best to remain unmarried and take steps for reconciliation.

In 2008 George Barna released a report regarding marriage and divorce statistics. "In fact, when evangelicals and non-evangelical born again Christians are combined into an aggregate class of born again adults, their divorce figure is statistically identical to that of non-born again adults: 32% versus 33%, respectively." As in the first century, today we find divorce to be widespread and acceptable, but it is not what God's Word teaches. God hates divorce (Mal. 2:14-16).

to their question was to stay married. He states in verse 14 that the unbelieving spouse "is sanctified" through the believing spouse. This means one Christian brings God's grace into the home and the possibility of salvation to the unbelieving spouse.

First Peter 3:1-6 is a beautiful passage encouraging wives to be obedient to the Word without saying a word: "it is the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God (vs. 4 NASB)."

When Not to Marry

1 Cor. 7:32-35

Paul uses the phrases "things of the Lord" and "things of the world" to show

the priority one has if a person is single or married. A single person is free from the concern of meeting the earthly needs of a spouse. Therefore there is a freedom to be set apart exclusively for the Lord's work. We see this in Paul's life. Whereas a married person must meet the earthly needs of a spouse and both should be striving to please the other. But more importantly is how can they serve Christ through the ministry of marriage.

Singleness or celibacy does not mean a person is more spiritual. Nancy DeMoss, single and founder of *Revive Our Hearts*, states: "Contrary to common thought, singleness is not a misfortune to be dreaded or resented, but rather it is a wonderful gift from God to be received with gratitude." It is a unique calling from God on one's life.

When to Marry

1 Cor. 7:36-39

During this time Paul was writing this letter to the Corinthians, it was the fathers who arranged the marriages (2 Cor. 11:2). Our modern approach

is dating or courtship. However, the practical teaching of Paul still applies; it is wise to counsel with parents and to seek godly counsel before entering into marriage. It would be wise to study covenant marriage. An excellent resource would be: *Covenant Marriage: Building Communication & Intimacy* by Gary Chapman.

Notice the phrase, "she is past her youth" (vs. 36) indicating there might be a tendency to rush into marriage before she becomes a spinster. Even today our society has a tendency to frown on an individual if they are not married by a certain age. "Better to live in single loneliness than in married cursedness!" quotes Warren Wiersbe.

The decision to be married or to remain single is serious business. Every believer needs to consider the following: what is my gifting from God; how will marriage or singleness affect my service for Christ; do I understand marriage is for life; and am I marrying a believer? To be or not to be married—carefully seek His answer!

Leathers is a member of First Church, Durant.

## Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts are not reproducible. Digital photos may be used if

submitted as a JPEG file via either (a) e-mail, (b) three-and-a-half inch floppy disk, or (c) CD. Photos must be clear, sharp, and well-lighted. Cell phone photographs and other low resolution items are generally not publishable. Photographs can not be returned. Please do not attach photos with tape or staples.

All news items are subject to editing, and all photographs are subject to cropping. Photographs must depict people. No landscape, building, or object-only photographs will be printed. News items and/or photographs can be published one time only. News items and/or photographs depicting benefits and activities for secular or outside organizations will not be published. Deadline for submitting news is one week prior to requested publication date.

Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis.

Submit news and photographs to The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. FAX: (601) 292-3330. E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org.

THE BAPTIST  
**Record**



# American in World Cup offers testimony of faith

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP) — Some Christians have miraculous stories of how they came to know Christ. Some have found themselves in the deepest, darkest moments one could possibly imagine and realized there was nowhere left to turn but to a Higher Power.

Clarence Goodson, a defender on the U.S. World Cup team, is not one of those stories.

Raised in a very tight-knit family with strong Christian values in Alexandria, Va., Goodson recognized at an early age the difference in right and wrong and was active in his local church. His parents were strong influences in his life and provided him with a Christian foundation to build his relationship with Christ.

Goodson does recall, however, one of the lower points in his life. Having dreamt all his life of being a professional soccer player, Goodson tried out for the Olympic Development Program and was cut from the district team, which is the lowest level of the league. Discouraged that his dreams may never come true, Goodson knew that however disheartened and disappointed he may be at the time, God was faithful.

"I believe God rewards faithfulness," Goodson said. "If we are obedient and follow Christ with all of our mind, body and soul, we will receive our heart's desires. That's not to say that you can get whatever you want, but if it is in God's will for your life, you will receive abundant joy."

"I am very proud to say that today, though hard work and putting my faith in Jesus Christ, I am the only person from those ODP tryouts to

make the U.S. Men's National Team. Sometimes we think that things could not get much worse, but Christ has a bigger plan set out for each and every one of us."

From the outside, many sports fans idolize the lifestyles of professional athletes, convinced they live a life of luxury, complete with six-car garages, movie-theater-sized televisions, and steak dinners every night, with no struggles financially or otherwise.

That's not always the case for a Christian athlete, Goodson said. "As an athlete, there are many temptations that the normal, everyday person may not experience. People want to give you things or ask things of you that are not things Christians should be involved with."

"As a Christian, we have to know what's right and wrong and recognize that we are in a position as professional athletes to lead others to Christ because of our platform."

Goodson married his wife, Kelsey in January 2009 and says that she is now the biggest influence in his life. In addition to his wife, he says others who make big impacts on his life spiritually and professionally are his father, Cliff Shaw, the chaplain for FC Dallas in MLS; and his youth soccer coach Gene Mishalow.

"They are the biggest role models in my life, and I don't make any big decisions without first consulting them because I know they'll always point me in the right direction," Goodson said.

Currently a defender for IK Start in Norway, Goodson says he originally struggled in a country that is spiritually thirsty. Having always been surrounded by strong spiritual influences, the lack of spirituality in Norway was a tem-

porary shock to Goodson, but he quickly recognized the opportunity that presented itself, like he strives to do in every situation.

"Norway lacks the amount of full-fledged Christians that my teams in America had. We do have a few good Christians here that love Jesus Christ," Goodson said. "We are good for each other to pick up when we may be feeling down or going through difficult times."

"We all need the fellowship of believers in our lives. It's easy today to get sermons and music on the Internet, but that doesn't give you the Christian interaction we all desperately need."

Since he came to Norway in 2008, IK Start has signed other Christian players that Goodson has connected with, and his wife provides a strong spiritual grounding for him as well. When he is home in the United States, he attends First Church in Springfield, Va.

Goodson's Christian upbringing has molded him into the strong man he is today, and he credits his family for that, knowing he wouldn't be who he is or where he is without them, not only on a professional level, but, more importantly, on a spiritual level.

"Mothers and fathers are



Goodson

extremely important in the growth of a child," he said. "They set the standard for everything in their children's

lives, and they are the ones who teach right from wrong, good from bad and how to be a faithful Christian."

## Americans competing in World Cup not shy about their Christianity

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (BP) — Several members of the U.S. National Team playing in the 2010 FIFA World Cup are not shy about discussing their Christian faith. Following are quotes from five of them about their faith:

• **Clarence Goodson, defender.** "Definitely you carry that around, your personal beliefs and faith, everywhere you go. Just because you step onto the field doesn't mean that you put that aside and put them in the locker until you step off the field. So that's what I try to carry around with me all the time and behave in such a way that those who don't know Christ come to know Christ because they know me."

"We had a Bible study just before the game the other day and it was Psalm 23 and there's a verse in Psalm 23 — 'my cup overflows' — it spoke about that and how fortunate we are as Christians, as Americans, and all the things that we have, and you travel to the game and

you see the ghettos and how less fortunate others are and how important it is to give back."

"For me there's definitely a calm and a peace in knowing that there's Someone else Who is in control and all you have to do is do your best and God will do the rest. I absolutely think that it's a very good thing to just sit back and sort of focus on something else for a minute and know that we are blessed and we are fortunate."

• **Tim Howard, goalie.** "I'm certainly just a vehicle for Christ and He moves me and the Spirit moves me in miraculous ways — that's from dealing with Tourette's syndrome to the pressures playing on a level like this and in England in the Premier League. I just try to rely on faith."

"I'm not perfect. I'm far from it and that is the reason I do need Jesus. I try to live it.... I stumble, as many people do, but always in the belief that I'm loved and that I'm meaningful."

"Today, I am blessed to be living a dream. And yet, if it all went away tomorrow, I know I would still have peace. That probably sounds crazy to most people, but that's the kind of peace Christ gives. It is rooted in His love, and it surpasses all understanding."

• **Ricardo Clark, midfielder.** "I've grown up to always have faith in whatever I do — on the field, off the field, it doesn't change, or I try not to make it change. Every day is a struggle with faith sometimes, but I try to have that foundation there, and it's helped me throughout everything; gives me courage, gives me strength in the good times and the bad times, on and off the field, and I try to push on through."

• **Brad Guzan, goalkeeper.** "I obviously have a big belief in Christ, and I think for me it allows me to go out and enjoy what I do every day. It allows me to play to the best of my ability. And like I said, it's a relationship that allows me

to have fun, and I think it's definitely helped me get to where I am today."

"I am religious, but at the same time I try to go out there and be a good professional and play with the best of my ability. In saying that, I think I feel confident when I go out there and just try to enjoy the game and enjoy the moments that I'm in."

• **Herculez Gomez, forward.** "I've learned that there are things that are not in my hands and you've got to leave them in God's hands. He has a plan for you. ...[T]here's a quote that I remember growing up where it says for a rich man to get into heaven it's as hard as it would be for a camel to get through the eye of a needle, so it kind of makes me think like this is great, but there's still more out there; this isn't all there is, you still gotta do a lot more."

Editor's note: Visit [www.worldsoccerjourneys.com](http://www.worldsoccerjourneys.com) for more World Cup faith stories.